

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 AID-10 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-02 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

IO-03 DRC-01 SSO-00 ( ISO ) W  
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R 252258Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8199

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3719

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, HO, CR

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI DISASTER IN HONDURAS

1. PRESIDENT ODUBER CALLED ME IN THIS AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 25, TO DISCUSS HIS IMPRESSIONS FOLLOWING ONE-DAY VISIT TO HONDURAS YESTERDAY. PRESIDENT IS DISMAYED BY THE EXTENT OF THE DEVASTATION HE SAW, THE THREAT OF DISEASE AND STILL MORE DEATHS, AND THE PROBABLE EXTENT OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC LOSS. MOREOVER, HE SAYS PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND OTHER OFFICIALS ARE STILL IN STATE OF SHOCK, AND THAT GOH'S CAPACITY TO COORDINATE ASSISTANCE AND MANAGE RELIEF EFFORT IS VERY LOW. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD IS NEEDED AND US, HE IMPLIED, WOULD BE BEST ABLE TO PROVIDE IT.

2. ODUBER COMMENTED THAT US ASSISTANCE EFFORT THUS FAR IS ALREADY IMPRESSIVE BUT NOT FULLY RECOGNIZED IN HONDURAS. HE SAYS OTHER COUNTRIES ARE GETTING AS MUCH OR MORE CREDIT AND ATTENTION, NOTABLY CUBA. ODUBER BELIEVES, MOREOVER, THAT AN EVEN MORE MASSIVE US EFFORT WILL BE NEEDED AND THAT IT IS POLITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE US CONTRIBUTION BE FULLY RECOGNIZED. IN THIS CONNECTION HE URGED THAT A SENIOR  
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US GOVT OFFICIAL VISIT HONDURAS SOON TO DRAMATIZE US INTEREST

AND LEVEL OF EFFORT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT US ENGINEERING UNITS SUCH AS SEABEES (WHO DID MAGNIFICENT JOB IN COSTA RICA IN 1963 IRAZU CRISIS) BE DESPATCHED TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE EFFORT TO HELP CLEAR ROADS AND BRIDGES TO GET LAND TRANSPORTATION MOVING AGAIN.

3. PRESIDENT REQUESTED THAT HIS COMMENTS BE PASSED DISCREETLY TO UKG. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT BOTH SHORT AND LONG RANGE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN HONDURAS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA SINCE, APART FROM HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, DESPAIR AND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION COULD LEAD TO POLITICAL INSTABILITY WHICH WOULD AFFECT ENTIRE REGION.  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, FIFI, STORMS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SANJO03719  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HURRICANE FIFI DISASTER IN HONDURAS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, HO, CS, (ODUBER, DANIEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005